

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
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Adam Vaughan
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June 19, 2019

Re: Support for Right to Housing in Bill C-97 and the National Housing Strategy Act

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Duclos, Minister Morneau, Mr. Vaughan

We are writing in follow-up to [our correspondence of July 16, 2018](#) to urge your support for the right to housing commitment in the National Housing Strategy Act. In the House of Commons on May 31, Minister Maryam Monsef introduced important amendments to the Act that accompany amendments proposed by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance.

The right to housing legislation makes a strong and clear federal commitment to housing as a fundamental human right and adds an innovative new rights-based accountability model that gives a meaningful voice and role to people with experience of homelessness and housing need.

Specifically, this legislation:

- Establishes that the National Housing Council will monitor progress and advise the Minister regarding the progressive realization of the right to housing.
- Strengthens the federal Housing Advocate who will:
 - assess and advise the Federal Government on the implementation of the housing policy;
 - initiate inquiries into incidents or conditions in a community, institution, industry or economic sector;
 - monitor progress in meeting goals and timelines of the housing policy;
 - receive and investigate submissions from affected groups;
 - issue opinions about compliance with the right to housing; and
 - refer key systemic issues for accessible hearings before a Review Panel.
- Provides for a Review Panel, made up of three members appointed from the National Housing Council, to hold hearings into selective systemic issues and submit reports and remedial recommendations to the designated federal Minister.
- Requires the Minister to respond to recommendations of the review panel.

The legislation does not interfere or encroach on any area areas of provincial/territorial jurisdiction in relation to housing. The legislation is a statement of a federal government housing policy based on the commitment to the right to housing and establishes mechanisms to promote that policy.

Legislation implementing a rights-based national housing strategy provides an historic opportunity for the federal government to address, as a priority, a critical human rights issue at home and at the same time to provide leadership in human rights internationally. This is the first time in Canada's history that legislation recognizing the right to housing has been introduced and it is critical that this be done right.

We hope you will support these important amendments and the right to housing in Canada.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Doris', with a stylized, cursive script.

Carolyn Doris, RD
Co-Chair ODPH

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mary Ellen Prange', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mary Ellen Prange
Co-Chair, ODPH Food Insecurity Workgroup